

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 IO-10

DHA-02 ORM-01 (ISO) W

----- 064085

R 301550Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6855

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: TRAVELBETWEEN EGYPT AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN SINAI

1. CAIRO PRESS SEPT 30 REPORTS GROUP OF 500 STUDENTS FROM GAZA RAFAH, EL ARISH AND KHAN YOUNIS, WHO STUDY IN EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER INSTITUTES RETURNED YESTERDAY THROUGH SINAI AFTER VISITING THEIR FAMILIES DURING SUMMER VACTAION. ANOTHER GROUP OF 30 PEOPLE RETURNED TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS PART OF A FAMILY REUNION PROGRAM CONDUCTED UNDER IRCS AUSPICES.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCH CROSSINGS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN SINAI SINCE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED. IT WILL BE RECALLED ONE OF ISRAELI DESIDERATA WAS FREER MOVEMENT OF ARABS BETWEEN ISRAELI OCCUPIED AREAS AND EGYPT. AS MATTER OF FACT, PROGRAMS OF THIS SORT HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SEVERAL YEARS WITHOUT ANY REAL DIFFICULTY. ESTIMATES ARE THAT AS MANY AS 300,000 PERSONS HAVE CROSSED LINES IN SINAI SINCE SHORTLY AFTER 1967 WAR. NOW, HOWEVER, EGYPTIANS

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CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR FACILITATING SUCH CROSSINGS AS CONSISTENT

WITH SPIRIT OF NEW AGREEMENT. THEY WILL NOT, OF COURSE,
WANT TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THIS EXCEPT WHEN IT SUITS THEIR PURPOSES.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
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